



APPROVED MINUTES
Environmental Quality Advisory Board
7441 E. Indian School Road, #101
Scottsdale, Arizona
Wednesday, April 20, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Basinger at 5:26 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Daniel Basinger, Chairman
Don Manthe
Michele Cohen
Jay Spector
Randy Nussbaum
Brian Munson (appearing telephonically)

Members Absent: Ron Hand

City Staff Present: Larry Person
Dave Bennett/Solid Waste Management
Rose Williams/Parks & Grounds Maintenance
Debbie Miles/Solid Waste Management
Beth Miller/Water Resources
Dave Mansfield/Water Resources

Other Attendees: Councilman Wayne Ecton
Martha Ecton
Mary Petrovich/Student from Prescott College

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Board Member Manthe and seconded by Board Member Spector, the minutes of the March 16, 2005 meeting were approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Mr. Mansfield handed out copies of the City of Scottsdale's 2005-6 Water and Sewer Rate Report and noting that the three-tier water rate structure is being targeted towards a rate increase for outside landscaping usage with the intent of giving people the message of saving water in the area.

Board Member Spector stated that the new rate structure also implies that there's going to be some new debt issued for water and sewer. Mr. Mansfield responded that there is enough cash on hand to take care of their needs due to prior bond issuance. A discussion regarding bond issuance ensued.

Mr. Mansfield also handed out copies of the 2004 Water Quality Report, explaining that this is an annual report that is done to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The Agency requires that this report is sent out to all customers. Mr. Mansfield noted that the report contains 2003 data and also that the water met or surpassed all of the federal standards. Mr. Mansfield indicated that the 2005 report is in the process of being completed.

Mr. Mansfield explained that the report also contains a section pertaining to water conservation and a poster has been designed that speaks to residents about the need to effectively change their landscape/irrigation system seasonally throughout the year. The poster will be inserted into the Water Quality Report before delivery to customers. Discussions ensued regarding the size and content of the water conservation poster insert.

Chairman Basinger suggested adding a section that speaks to the citizens about the City of Scottsdale's achievements. Councilman Ecton cautioned that the City not go overboard in telling them how good it's doing, as that can drive some people to be less conservative. A discussion concerning water conservation ethics was then held.

Beth Miller indicated that there are several bills in the legislature this year that are important to the City. The Arizona Water Settlement Act bill, implementing the Gila River water rights settlement is making its way through the legislature and is expected to be signed by the Governor. Additionally, another bill establishing a rural watershed study committee to evaluate rural water issues is moving forward. Ms. Miller indicated that there are two bills which grant tax credits to individuals for installing gray water systems in their homes; however, one has been stricken and the other is not likely to be passed.

Board Member Spector reported that last week the Governor convened her Clean Colorado River Alliance Task Force. The mission of the task force is to come up with a plan to protect the Colorado River from contamination. Mr. Spector is a member of the task force and will keep the Board updated.

Councilman Ecton inquired about the City's aquifer management plan as it relates to re-charging. Mr. Mansfield explained that there are two ways that is done, noting first the use of micro-filtration reverse osmosis, which strips water of every thing. And stating second, that the Department of Water Resources requires extensive monitoring of the system and the aquifer that the water is put into.

Board Member Manthe reported the occurrence of current lobbying for State revolving funds to address concerns over the next ten years regarding the aging infrastructure; particularly water quality and how to get the water to individual homes in the communities. Board Member Spector commented on various issues surrounding the current federal budget climate.

LEED POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Person reported that when the Council passed the resolution on March 22, 2005, Scottsdale became the first municipality in the nation to adopt a LEED gold standard for all new construction. Mr. Person stated that the Mayor and Council took a leadership role that's being recognized throughout the country now because of this new LEED gold standard.

ENVIROKIDSFEST

Chairman Basinger reminded Members of the need to get in their applications if they intend to attend the event. He also reiterated the need for volunteers to help with the event.

Mr. Person presented the T-shirts (which recognize event sponsors) and wristbands that the students and adult chaperones will be wearing at the event.

Ms. Ecton commended Board Member Cohen, stating that she had the poster contest beautifully organized. Board Member Cohen and Mr. Person gave a brief report regarding the contest posters submitted. Board Member Cohen expressed gratitude to the members of the judging panel before presenting the winning posters for review by the Board. Discussion ensued while Members of the Board reviewed the posters. The decision was made to present the winning posters to the City Council. Board Member Cohen also reported that Board Member Nussbaum's law firm (Jaburg & Wilk, P.C.) is supplying prizes for the poster contest. The grand prizewinner will receive \$100 savings bond. The Board applauded.

EnviroKidsFest Chair (Board Member) Nussbaum stated that the preparation for the event is going well, and that it will be better than last year's event.

MOTORIZED PLAY VEHICLE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Basinger reported that the Committee met last month and has received input from citizens. The Committee is reviewing the issue tomorrow night in a special meeting of the joint EQAB/Transportation Committee. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 in the KIVA. Everyone is invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON LEAGUE OF CITY'S - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Councilman Ecton gave a brief overview of the League of Cities and his involvement therewith, specifically noting that he is a member of the Energy/Environmental Natural Resource Advocacy Committee.

Councilman Ecton reported that the Policy Committee usually promotes three issues, and this year, the issues are: a national energy policy; water quality; and land use. He noted that land use is a hot topic right now due to proposed development of oil wells in Alaska (ANWR).

He further reported that the Endangered Species Act was a big item of discussion for the Advocacy Committee. Additional items included energy legislation; MTBE; nuclear waste; replacement of facilities; renewable energy; a grant program for wastewater treatment; recyclable products for buildings; and funding for beach renewal. The other major discussions centered on the energy bill.

Councilman Ecton reported that he spoke formally at the meeting on Green Building issues and indicated that many people came to him after the meeting to acquire additional information regarding the success of the City of Scottsdale's Green Building Program.

Councilman Ecton gave an additional report regarding his involvement with First Tier Cities.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Dave Bennett of the Solid Waste Management Division gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting various recycling and diversion programs that are in place.

The Electronics Recycling Program has been revamped, and has a new contractor. The traffic flow pattern has been improved, and citizens can now see how materials are packaged for disposition. Mr. Bennett indicated that over 68 tons of electronic materials have been collected since 2002. A question was asked about reuse of devices that citizens recycled, and Mr. Bennett said that with the old recycler everything was thrown into a roll-off unit and good equipment was damaged. The current recycler, carefully packages all material and then tests all of the equipment. Mr. Bennett assured the Board that the recycler thoroughly erases all hard disks to protect citizen's privacy. The next event is Saturday May 7th, from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

Mr. Bennett reported on the Airpark Pilot Recycling Program. The city received a grant from ADEQ for \$37,250 for a vertical baler which has been installed at the Solid Waste Transfer Station to bale cardboard and newsprint. There are collection points in the airpark area, and Solid Waste employees have separated recyclable material from the refuse stream. This pilot program has diverted 20+ tons of material since March 21,

2005. Mr. Bennett informed the Board that recycled newspaper and cardboard is brokered out and goes overseas to Singapore, China, and Japan. A brief discussion was held regarding the unsightliness of the containers.

Mr. Bennett also discussed Solid Waste Management's assistance in the city's revitalization efforts, and distributed "Solid Waste Management's weekly revitalization efforts south of Indian Bend" report to Board Members. New programs include assistance in alley maintenance, a roll-off container for tire recycling (at the south corp yard), providing information flyers in Spanish, telephone book recycling, and more drop-off locations in Scottsdale.

Board Member Spector stated that his neighborhood recently participated in the Neighborhood Cleanup Program and reported that the response and support from the City of Scottsdale was outstanding.

Debbie Miles gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the DC Ranch Park Pilot Recycling Program, which focuses on recycling bottles and cans. Brief discussions were held concerning the issues of contamination and the removal of recycling identification stickers from the recycling cans. Ms. Miles also presented a detailed report of the six-week program to date, followed by suggested solutions being implemented to improve the program and reduce contamination. Rose Williams (parks) suggested increasing the education component of the program, whereupon solutions were suggested and discussed. Board Member Spector reminded the Board that this is a pilot project, experiencing some growing pains, but a worthwhile endeavor overall.

Ms. Miles also discussed the City's Household Hazardous Waste program, highlighting the program's success. The last collection was done April 4th, where 523 citizen participants brought in 13.6 tons, with a wait time of less than 5 minutes. Mr. Miles said that since November 2000, 190 tons of hazardous materials were diverted (over 7550 vehicles served.) Items such as paint, solvents, motor oil, batteries, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, and empty propane tanks are collected. Mr. Person reported that in response to the success of the program he is receiving very few calls on the Hazardous Waste hotline and is not getting any complaints anymore.

Ms. Miles reported on the successful Greenwaste Program, noting that the total brush collected for the year, through April 2005, is 4,399.25 tons, the greenwaste collected for the same period was 1000.88 tons, giving a thirty percent diversion rate. Overall, the program has collected 15,065.13 tons since its inception in 2002, with a diversion rate is 34 percent. Ms. Miles explained that this is a free program, and that the separation of materials is not done by citizens. Materials from the Greenwaste Program go to the Salt River Landfill where it is turned into compost and is sold to the local nurseries.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were suspended to the next meeting.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

The Second Scottsdale Design Day is scheduled for June 11th.

EnviroKidsFest is one week from Thursday (April 28th) at WestWorld.

The Sun Festival is April 30 – May 1 at WestWorld

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public responded.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Munson and Don Manthe exited the meeting at 7:10 P.M. Brian Munson, appearing by telephone, rejoined the meeting prior to adjournment.

Being duly moved and seconded, the regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Davette Repola

Board Members
Daniel Basinger (Chair)
Don Manthe (Vice-chair)
Randy Nussbaum
Brian Munson
Michele Cohen
Ron Hand
Jay Spector